UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/215
27 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 27 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward the attached letter from the President of the State of Eritrea, H.E. Isaias Afwerki, addressed to Your Excellency in your capacity as President of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

99-05397 (E) 270299

/...

Annex

Identical letters dated 27 February 1999 from the President of Eritrea addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

As Your Excellency will recall, the Government of Eritrea had officially acknowledged that it considers the OAU Framework positively. Nonetheless, as it harboured reservations on certain aspects of the Framework, the Government of Eritrea had earnestly sought clarifications on those points while underlining its engagement in the process.

Two of the controversial issues that needed clarification were:

(i) the geographical location of "Badme and its environs"; and,

(ii) administration of Badme.

While the Government of Eritrea was engaged in the process of ironing out these issues, the Ethiopian government has violated the Framework Agreement, as well as Security Council resolutions 1226 and 1227, to launch a war of aggression against Eritrea on 6 February 1999. The Ethiopian government now occupies by force Eritrean sovereign territory. Its war of aggression has created a new situation superseding the prevailing reality.

The Government of Eritrea strongly rejects the attempts by Ethiopia, before and now, to impose a solution through the use of force. Nonetheless, the Government of Eritrea accepts the OAU Framework Agreement to pave the way for an expedited demarcation.

In the circumstances, I call upon the Security Council to:

1. Condemn Ethiopia's territorial ambitions and aggression against Eritrea;

2. Ensure the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions;

3. Ensure that observers are sent to verify facts on the ground and facilitate demarcation.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Isaias AFWERKI